

# THE macdonald JOURNAL

MAY 1978



UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES-McGill UNIVERSITY

**SUGARCANE FEEDS CENTRE**  
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A PROJECT OF THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL  
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## Journal Jottings

We often have to "sit" on an article until the time seems appropriate to publish it. Such is the case with the UWI-McGill Sugarcane Feeds Centre article beginning on page 3. We have known about the research that has been carried out for several years. Dr. Donefer mentions his article published in the June, 1972, Journal; we have also realized, somewhat with envy, that various Faculty members visit the Caribbean Islands (is it coincidence that these excursions seem to take place during winters' onslaught?), and late in 1976 an announcement was made concerning the University of West Indies, Canadian International Development Agency, and McGill University agreement. A few months later I talked with Professor Donefer about an article and we decided that the May, 1978, Journal, after the official

opening, would be the appropriate issue. The article — or rather its contents — is one more positive indication of Macdonald's desire to serve the community, be it here or abroad.

This month the College welcomes for the 67th year delegates and visitors to the Annual Convention of the Quebec Women's Institutes. They, too, serve the community at home and abroad, and they realize that the community both small town and global can only be as strong as each individual family unit. It all starts at home and this is the theme of the Convention. For this reason we thought Dr. Shymko's article on Family Life Education in Canada would be of particular interest at this time. Why have educators felt the need to include this subject in the school curriculum? One reason could be, and I quote from the article "The major function of

family life education in the opinion of the educators in this sample was to deal with and to alleviate the effects of the failure of other institutions, including the family, in facing many current issues related to family life."

As times change and as values change, it is reassuring to realize that there are still institutions whose ideals are based on old, tried and true fundamentals. More of them should make the educators' task a great deal easier.

Hazel M. Clarke

Macdonald College is beginning a new era. Its move this summer to the new Macdonald-Stewart Building ends a concept of Macdonald College that was unmistakably tied with the old premises it has occupied since 1905.

Macdonald College became synonymous with the distinctive architectural design and layout that was specifically built to house the facilities of McGill University specializing in areas dealing with the farm, the home, and the school, an objective that was visualized by its founder Sir William Macdonald. Until 1970, this concept remained untouched. In that year the changing times became apparent when the Faculty of Education was moved to the downtown campus. After long and uncertain deliberations about its future location, the Faculty of Agriculture has managed to avoid a move to the McGill Campus. Instead a new building was erected on the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Campus to accommodate the facilities.

The nostalgic sentiments that many students, staff, and visitors developed over the years with the

old buildings must be set aside to make way for a new positive outlook on the role and potential of Macdonald College. Without any doubt, the work of excellence in agricultural education, research, and extension for which the institution is world renowned will be pursued and expanded to serve the agricultural community.

Its close relationship with the problems and aspirations of the Quebec rural community has enabled it to adjust and be sensitive to the cultural communities within the province. This adjustment will continue to evolve and will ultimately constitute the strength for its development. Although we have

moved into a new facility, the Macdonald spirit and mission will be carried on with new vigour. Macdonald College will continue to be available to those interested in or even curious about agriculture.

Martin van Lierop  
Editor



# UWI-McGILL SUGARCANE FEEDS CENTRE

by Professor E. Donefer  
Department of Animal Science

On February 28, 1978, the official opening was held in Trinidad for a project in which the Macdonald College Faculty of Agriculture has a major responsibility. The project is designated as the UWI-McGill **Sugarcane Feeds Centre**, indicating a collaborate role between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and McGill University. Financial support for the five-year program is by the Canadian Government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). As the Centre's name partially implies, its role is to determine the technical and economic feasibility of the use of livestock feeds derived from the sugarcane plant for dairy and beef production.



Ribbon cutting at the Sugarcane Feeds Centre opening, by Dean Spence (UWI) and Dean Lloyd (McGill).

The Macdonald involvement in this area of tropical agriculture began 10 years ago when we were asked to set up trials in the Caribbean to test the nutritive value of a feed prepared from sugarcane by a process developed by a Canadian company. This process involved splitting the sugarcane stalk and removing the woody outside rind layer which would be used for board or panel construction. This left the inner portion of the cane, primarily consisting of sugar containing pith, which could either be used in a conventional sugar factory (to extract and crystallize the sugar) or directly as an energy-rich cattle feed. The cattle feeding trials were conducted on the Caribbean Island of St. Kitts in the summer of 1968 and the results reported in the McGill Thesis of Lionel James, a West Indian graduate student working in the Macdonald College Department of Animal Science. Initial cattle growth results from St. Kitts indicated a good potential for the new sugar-

cane feed (termed "Comfith"), and plans were made for an expanded testing program to be conducted in Barbados at the Animal Nutrition Unit of the Barbados Ministry of Agriculture.

The Barbados Comfith Project started in late 1969 and continued for a four-year period supported by CIDA and with technical consultation by members of the Department of Animal Science of Macdonald College. The initial work of this project was described in the Macdonald Journal (June, 1972) in an article I wrote titled "Converting Sugar to Meat" and by Dr. H. G. Dion, on leave from Macdonald College to CIDA as Special Agricultural Advisor, who wrote in the July, 1972, issue of the (AIC) *Agrologist* of the "Barbados Breakthrough" and stated that "a new era in beef production is on the horizon, a result of feeding the world's most productive crop, sugarcane, to cattle."

In January, 1972, at a CIDA-sponsored seminar on Sugarcane as a Livestock Feed held in Barbados, the results of the Comfith feeding trials were presented to representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture of the 12 countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Several developments arising from that meeting illustrate continuing Canadian support for development and implementation of sugarcane feed technology, which could serve to markedly increase milk and meat production in many tropical areas of the world where these high-quality foods are in short supply. This continuing Canadian support is seen in funds appropriated to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to support canefeeding programs in the less-developed countries (LDCs) of the Commonwealth Caribbean, in a program where small cane derinding machines and feed supplements were supplied to many countries of the region and lastly, in the initiation



of a regional program for demonstration and training in livestock production based on sugarcane feeding. This latter program has resulted in the **Sugarcane Feeds Centre (SFC)**, in which CIDA has contracted McGill University to act as its executing agent.

The CIDA-McGill contract dates from October, 1976, and the initial phase of the work has involved recruitment of staff and building of facilities. At the recent February SFC "opening", facilities for handling up to 1,000 cattle were nearing completion with some cattle operations already operational for a eight-month period. Since last summer, young male calves (primarily Holstein) have been purchased from Trinidad dairy farmers and to date over 200 have been raised through the initial milk (or milk replacer) stage with most now on sugarcane-containing growing rations. For lactation studies the UWI dairy herd located at their field station will be used and in preparation, the herd records and milk analyses data have been incorporated in the Macdonald Campus-based Dairy Herd Analysis Service (becoming the first non-Canadian herd in the system).

An area of approximately 150 acres of Trinidad state-lands has been allocated to the SFC which, in addition to space for offices, machinery, cane processing, and animal facilities, should provide about 100 acres for growing sugarcane for animal feeding. A problem is the extremely low fertility and poor drainage of this land, which previously had not been used for commercial crop production; so an additional challenge for the SFC program is to demonstrate that with suitable land management techniques and subsequent large amounts of cattle manure, the land can become productive. Initial steps have involved a subsurface drainage program in which a



Feeding pens under construction to house over 800 head at SFC site.



Sugarcane processing equipment on display at SFC opening. Many will recognize former Dean George Dion (at present Agricultural Advisor to CIDA) with hat and glasses.





ditcher and flexible tubing had to be shipped from Canada due to the absence of such equipment in Trinidad.

Other programs under development include a cooperative plan of working with small dairy farmers (milking about 10-15 cows) where the value of sugarcane feeding will be demonstrated, particularly in the dry season (January-April) when pasture is almost non-existent. Systems of accounting and economic analysis are being developed so that economic feasibility of different canefeeding systems can be determined.

The overall feeding program includes use of any cattle feed derived from the sugarcane plant, which includes sugarcane factory by-products such as energy-rich molasses and the fibrous (and energy-poor) factory residue — bagasse. Most emphasis will be placed on direct use of the whole sugarcane crop, which represents an alternative to the use of the plant for sugar production. With Caribbean costs of sugar production currently exceeding the

wholesale market value, alternative land and crop uses are being considered in many sugar-producing countries. The high annual yield of the total sugarcane crop, averaging 35-40 tons per acre of fresh material (30 per cent dry matter) could potentially provide cattle feed for large numbers of animals. The use of the whole plant (tops, leaves, stems) would supply a high-energy feed not unlike our local use of the whole corn plant to make silage, and in fact the two "giant grasses" (corn and cane) have a similar energy value (with 70 per cent of the plant dry matter being digestible in both cases). In addition to the use of the cane stalk derinding process, the project is also comparing the use of choppers (both stationary and field) which would prepare a feed containing the entire plant (including the rind). Choppers are generally less expensive than derinders and to date similar cattle growth results have been obtained when the feeds have been compared. A deciding economic factor will probably depend on the development of board-producing

schemes from the sugarcane rind in which case the derinded stalk will become a by-product of board manufacture and thus available at a reduced cost.

As mentioned initially, the SFC is to have a training function available to farmers and agriculturists from the 12-country Commonwealth Caribbean region. Practical aspects of animal management and sugarcane feeding will be taught in short courses (two-three months in duration) with emphasis placed on trainees being involved in the actual operation of the production systems with supplementary "classroom" sessions.

In the few years following the CIDA sugarcane feed program in Barbados, the concept of direct use of the whole sugarcane plant as part of an intensive cattle production scheme has been growing, with present-day research and commercial operations spreading in many countries, and particularly in Mexico, Central America, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. These Spanish-speaking countries have a long tradition in cattle raising, and see in sugarcane an opportunity for large increases in supply of a locally produced cattle feed of high energy content.

The establishment of the UWI-McGill **Sugarcane Feeds Centre** in Trinidad will complement field work being carried out in many countries and provide a focal point for evaluation of the various canefeeding system options. The Macdonald Faculty of Agriculture will thus add to its overall involvement in teaching and research programs directed to increasing efficiency of food production, a potential contribution to help solve the world-wide problem of food shortages, particularly in those countries where the economies are much less developed than our own.



# RAG WEED



by Alan K. Watson and  
Harry Hartmann\*

Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) (petite herbe à poux) is an annual weed which is the primary cause of hay fever in eastern North America. The plant is wind pollinated (anemophilous) with its large quantities of pollen being released from mid July to the time of the first frost in the fall.

## Biology

This shallow rooted annual weed is highly variable in morphological characters. Plants range from 0.2 to over 2.0 m in height and can be considerably branched. Leaves of ragweed are characteristically finely divided with the lower surface usually slightly lighter in colour. Another characteristic feature of this plant is the numerous male flowers (which contain the obnoxious pollen) arranged on long spikes terminating the stems and branches. Ragweed plants are usually monoecious with both the male

and female flowers on the same plant. The one flowered female heads are sessile and inconspicuous in the axils of the upper leaves.

The seeds (achenes), usually less than 5 mm in length, are easily recognized by their large terminal beak-like projection which is surrounded by a ring of smaller teeth-like projections. A single ragweed plant will produce from 3,000 to 62,000 seeds. These seeds can remain dormant when buried in the soil and retain their viability for more than 40 years. Studies have shown that seeds of ragweed germinate best from the soil surface, but can germinate from depths below 15 cm. When the mature seeds are released from the parent plant, they are dormant and require stratification or a cold period to germinate. Seeds of ragweed have no special means of dispersal such as a pappus characteristic of dandelion or a burr characteristic of burdock. Therefore, natural seed dissemination is usually in the vicinity of the parent plant. However, man through his cultivation practises and transport systems is the main agent of weed seed dissemination.

Seedlings of common ragweed usually become established early in the spring.

## Distribution

Common ragweed is native to North America and populations of this weed have increased due to the extensive clearing of land and intensification of agriculture. Ragweed inhabits a wide variety of soils and moisture conditions and is commonly found in vacant lots, in waste places, along roadsides and railroads and in cultivated fields.

Ragweed has been collected from all the Canadian provinces and from the Northwest Territories. However, the plant is rare in the N.W.T., B.C., and Alberta, and is far more abundant in eastern Canada, particularly in southern Ontario and southern Quebec. Heavy infestations of common ragweed occur in the rich lowlands along the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers.

## Detrimental Effects

In addition to the obvious discomfort and suffering caused by ragweed pollen, this plant can produce a dermatitis in some individuals who do not necessarily suffer from hay fever. Also, dairy products from cattle grazing on common ragweed are reported to have an objectionable odour and taste. Although it is not usually emphasized when discussing the detrimental effects of ragweed, this species is becoming increasingly more important as an agricultural pest and is a serious weed in most cultivated crops. Ragweed is a strong competitor with crop plants for light, water, nutrients, and space. Ragweed is usually most abundant in cereal crops, in row crops, and in

\*Assistant Professor and graduate student, Department of Plant Science, Macdonald College.



abandoned fields during early stages of succession. Generally ragweed is not a problem weed in perennial crops such as alfalfa.

## Control

Common ragweed is susceptible to most weed control measures. In certain areas, such as the home garden, hand pulling and hoeing are the most effective means of control. Mowing before the plants flower is also utilized, but many areas infested with ragweed are not accessible to mowing equipment and usually mowed plants will regrow and produce secondary flowering shoots. To prevent new infestations from occurring, certified seed should be sown and sanitation practises should be observed to prevent the spread of ragweed seed.

Ragweed is susceptible to 2,4-D and related compounds. Specific recommendations for ragweed control within different crops and situations can be obtained from weed control publications available from the Quebec and Ontario Ministries of Agriculture. Be certain to read and carefully follow label directions in order to obtain satisfactory results and to avoid problems and hazards associated with the misuse of chemical herbicides. However, under many situations where ragweed is a problem, such as along roadsides and in vacant lots within urban communities, spray applications of herbicides is usually not considered and alternate methods of control must be utilized.

There is an active research program being undertaken to determine the possibility of biological control of this noxious weed. Most biological control programs involve introduced weed species and the importation of host specific biotic



Common ragweed: A. Plant, B. head of male flowers, C. "seed". (Courtesy Canada Department of Agriculture.)



Ragweed plant infected with white rust.



agents from their native region into Canada. However, ragweed is native to North America suggesting no source area for potential biological control agents. It is possible that specific biotic agents may be obtained from the mountainous regions of Mexico or certain areas of South America. A number of the natural enemies (insects) of ragweed that attack the plant in North America have been sent (free of their own parasites and predators) to the U.S.S.R. for biocontrol of ragweed.

In addition to the natural insect pests of ragweed, numerous plant pathogens have also been observed to cause damage to common ragweed. Two fungi, *Albugo tragopogi* (white rust) and *Erysiphe cichoracearum* (powdery mildew) are being studied to determine their potential in reducing infestations of ragweed. Studies on the host-parasite interactions between ragweed and *Albugo tragopogi* constitute the research portion of the second author's Master of Science degree program. It is proposed that some degree of control of ragweed may be achieved by appropriately timed applications of one or more host specific plant pathogens. Considerable more research must be conducted but the initial results are promising.

### Summary

Although common ragweed may be a serious weed of cultivated fields, it is more commonly considered an urban weed causing extensive discomfort and misery to hay fever sufferers. Typical symptoms last for six to eight weeks annually during the late summer and early fall. Hay fever sufferers have three major means of reducing their annual misery:

- 1) antihistamines which can give temporary relief;
- 2) series of inoculations to desensitize the patient;
- 3) spend the hay fever season away from areas known to have high infestations of ragweed.

In regard to the latter option, a pollen air index for all parts of Canada has been determined and reported in the publication, "Canadian Havens from Hay Fever" by I. J. Bassett and C. Frankton, Information Canada, Ottawa, 1971, p. 28.

By referring to the "average ragweed pollen air index" number an individual can decide upon the best location within Canada in order to avoid his annual bout with hay fever.

In order to protect these "havens" and to develop areas with reduced ragweed populations, control measures are required. Research is continuing in an attempt to develop adequate and effective control of this noxious weed species.



White pustules of *Albugo tragopogi* on the under surface of a ragweed leaf.



# *Family Life Education in Canada*

## *Past, Present, and Future*

by Professor Dolores L. Shymko  
School of Food Science

### Introduction

Historically, family life education, as a separate entity, is a relative newcomer to the school curriculum. The ever increasing visibility of the many social problems threatening the survival of the family during the past 10 years such as: disintegrating family relationships, an increasing divorce rate, rising statistics on venereal disease and illegitimacy, and raging drug abuse, have accentuated the need for public action. As a result, there has been relatively positive reaction to the introduction of family life education in the schools in various parts of Canada. Although many of these programs were created within an atmosphere of uncertainty with regard to what should constitute the appropriate content and the underlying philosophy, they have acquired increasing educational integrity, and even special prominence, in relation to what has become to be considered the social function of the school. Family life education apparently has found its niche from which it can now improve and develop its role.

The purpose of this article is to examine some aspects of the evolution of family life education in Canada within the past 15 years. The information to be presented will focus on the historical development of this field in the past, will analyze the present status of this subject in Canadian schools, and will hypothesize about possible challenges that will be faced by those involved in family life education in the future. This discussion of family life education is concentrated on its expansion

in Canadian schools, although an increasing amount of family-oriented educational services are now also available through other community agencies.

### The Past Search for an Identity

The evolution of family life education in Canada has been characterized by an "identity crisis". This search for an identity has been dominated by three issues: what family life education actually is (or should be), what specifically is Canadian family life education, and who should be involved in and responsible for the teaching of family life education. These issues have not been resolved entirely as yet. However, the discussion that follows suggests how they have been dealt with thus far.

### What is Family Life Education?

The attempt to provide a standard definition of what family life education actually is has not been unique to the Canadian situation; the issue has been enthusiastically debated in numerous countries throughout the world. The strong impact of unique cultural and geographical influences on family living dictates that family life education is not a monolithic subject with a readily defined content. By necessity, it is a reflection of the needs of the family unit considered within the context of the particular social environment.

In the past, family life education has appeared in the school curriculum in many guises. It was frequently incorporated as a part of courses in health, physical education, biology, home economics, and religious education. More recently, it has also been

included in school programs related to values education, human awareness programs, and guidance courses. The scope of the family life education that was provided varied in accordance with each of these subject areas. Thus, the "early pioneers" in the family life education field in Canadian schools were the health and physical education teachers, the home economists and biologists, and those involved in religious education.

A perusal of current literature in the field provides numerous definitions of the term family life education. An analysis of these many definitions indicates that the distinctive feature of this type of education seems to be that it deals with various aspects of interpersonal relationships within the context of the family unit. However, the specific topics that can be discussed within this broad conceptual framework are numerous.

The two terms that are most frequently used to describe this type of education are family life education and sex education. Indeed, these two terms are often used interchangeably. This mingling of terms has led to much confusion on the part of both the public and educators, who have a vested interest in the subject, as to what schools are doing in these subject areas. A closer examination of current literature indicates that the term family life education is favoured, as it implies a broader approach to the discussion of intimate human relationships. The term sex education has become somewhat maligned, as it has often been used in a rather narrow sense to deal more exclusively with the reproductive and sexual functions



of the human body. An analysis of the type of education associated with each of these two terms suggests that some programs in family life education have deliberated about the family without discussing sex, while some programs in sex education have talked about sex without mentioning the family. The debate concerning the desirable relationship between these two topics continues unresolved. However, there are indications that the two conceptual approaches that have been used in this type of education are merging. In his introduction to a recently published book examining specific aspects of sexual behaviour in Canada, Schlesinger (1977) observed: "In fact, it is impossible to discuss family relationships and functions without including sexuality, and sexual patterns involved, and equally so to discuss sexuality outside the context of the family and its relationships."

The working definition of the term family life education that was used by Elkin (1971) in an extensive survey study to ascertain the extent of its acceptance in Canada was: "Any activity by any group or medium aimed at imparting information concerning family relationships and providing the opportunity for people to approach their present or future family relationships with greater understanding." This definition considered the discussion of such topics as: husband-wife relationships, parent-child relationships, child care and development, sex education, dating, family planning, marriage counselling, and personal development within the family structure, as a part of family life education. It did not consider the specific teaching of religious and moral doctrines, issues about poverty, health, nutrition, home economics, and etiquette to be part of this definition. The conceptual definition of family life education used by Herold, Kopf and de Carlo (1974) in a study

of student responsiveness to family life education, stated: "Family life education is the study of individual roles and interpersonal relationships, family patterns and alternate life styles, emotional needs of individuals at all ages, and the physiological, psychological and sociological aspects of sexuality."

### **What is Canadian Family Life Education?**

It is equally difficult to provide a standard definition of Canadian family life education or to determine whether it actually exists as a distinct phenomenon. Several factors have directly influenced those characteristics that have merged as specifically "Canadian" in relation to family life education. The first factor is that education in Canada is the legislative responsibility of the provincial governments. Thus, there are geographical variations and very distinctive local differences that have affected the emphasis that is stressed in the numerous family life education programs that have been established throughout Canada. As a result, possibly the one definitive statement that accurately describes Canadian family life education is its diversity.

Another important factor that has influenced the evolution of family life education in Canada has been the notable lack of empirical research concerned with identifying the unique features of Canadian family life. As in many other fields of education, initially there was a tendency to resort to American, and also European, data that were readily available for obtaining basic information pertaining to family living. More recently there has been a concerted effort to develop a specifically Canadian approach to the topic on the part of both researchers and educators who are interested in understanding the complexities of family life in

Canada. The need for future research with regard to almost all aspects of Canadian family life has been widely recognized. Numerous current publications in this field have begun to provide much needed empirical information (Ishwaran, 1971; Schlesinger, 1972; Wakil, 1975). The results of future studies in this area will play an important role in shaping subsequent developments in family life education.

An additional factor that has contributed to the evolution of family life programs in Canada has been its relatively positive acceptance by the public. The extreme controversies to the introduction of family life education that occurred in many school districts in the United States have not been characteristic of the Canadian situation, to date. However, its inception has not been without incident. Probably the most forceful example of active public opposition to family life education was in Calgary, Alberta, in 1969. This controversy has continued to the present, although it was greatly alleviated by making the program an optional part of the school curriculum. There also has been some additional opposition to the introduction of family life education from parental groups in Ottawa separate schools who questioned the appropriateness of discussing sexual topics in the classroom. Apparently, the majority of the public criticism that has occurred in Canada has been directed at the parts of the program that deal with sex education.

The reason for this relative lack of controversy in most parts of Canada, in the opinion of the present author, may be attributed to two factors. It may indicate that in keeping with our rather conservative national character, we have not allowed the more controversial issues that are associated with family life education to be aired fully. The lack of conflict does not necessarily mean that there is a consensus of agreement



with regard to what is the appropriate content of family life education. Hopefully, the debate on this issue is yet to come, as the public becomes more familiar with the programs that are now functioning in the schools.

Another further explanation for the lack of conflict is that the Canadian model for implementing these programs has paid rather close attention to local community needs by attempting to incorporate the aspirations of both the students and their parents. In many programs, a concerted effort has been made to avoid purely factual information, particularly with regard to the parts that deal with sexual information. Ideally, family life education deals with many relevant social issues that are being faced by families and individuals in today's society.

### **The Present Status of Family Life Education**

Several extensive survey studies of the status of family life education and sex education in Canada have provided descriptive summaries that outline the expansion of numerous programs in Canadian schools. As previously noted, education in Canada is under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments; thus, these surveys are predominantly comparisons of geographical variations examining both the similarities and differences in existing programs.

In 1964, a national survey of the 10 provincial departments of education and 55 major urban school systems was conducted by the Canadian Education Association to determine the status of sex education in Canada. (It should be noted that this study used the term sex education rather than family life education.) This survey reported that throughout Canada at this time sex education was not usually taught as a separate sub-

ject, but was incorporated into other subjects such as: physical education, health, science, home economics, and guidance. In the province of Quebec, sex education was taught as an interdisciplinary subject in conjunction with hygiene, biology, and ethics. According to this report, sex education involved many professional persons that included teachers, counsellors, school nurses, and various guest speakers. Illustrative samples of lessons and curriculum materials, films, and course outlines that were used in teaching sex education courses in various parts of Canada at that time also were included in this study.

A more recent and very extensive study of family life education in Canada was completed in 1971 by Elkin under the auspices of the Vanier Institute of the Family. Although this study and the CEA report were vastly different in format, a superficial comparison of their findings indicates the expansion of the concept of sex education in the seven-year period between publications, as well as the increasing importance given to the subject as fulfilling a significant role in Canadian schools.

Although the schools in the Elkin study were not a random sample, they did represent a fairly comprehensive geographical sampling from both urban and rural areas. The results indicated that family life education was the exception rather than the norm in Canadian schools. Most of the existing programs had been introduced within the past 10 years. Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia had the largest number of courses, respectively; the maritimes the least. Family life education programs were most often found in large communities and cosmopolitan school districts. They were usually in schools that were large, segregated (male-female), non-religiously affiliated,

and English speaking; and that had many senior classes, formal counselling services, and innovative curricula. The initiators of family life courses most frequently had been the teachers themselves, in conjunction with local school boards and the provincial departments of education.

The lack of open controversy to family life education courses in Canada has already been noted above. In this survey of Canadian educators involved in family life education, Elkin found that the major issue was not whether or not there should be such programs in the schools, but rather what information should be taught, who should teach it, and who should administer it. The major problems that were involved in the introduction of family life education were related to lack of qualified staff, inadequate teaching aids, as well as other practical limitations. Community reaction, criticisms by higher school authorities, and lack of student interest were not reported as being significant obstacles to establishing programs. The subjects from the schools in this sample that did not already have established programs expressed more concern about parental and community criticism than those representatives from schools with already established programs. Approximately one in four of the schools with existing programs reported that they had about 55 per cent of the parents participating in the courses.

The major function of family life education in the opinion of the educators in this sample was to deal with and to alleviate the effects of the failure of other social institutions, including the family, in facing many current issues related to family life. Family life education was taught as part of health and physical education, guidance and home economics in a vast majority of the schools sur-



veyed by Elkin. However, there appeared to be an increasing trend to the establishment of a separate course designated as sex education. The course content of the existing family life education programs in the schools surveyed, in order of emphasis given to the topics, included: sex education, boy-girl relationships, intergenerational relationships, and marriage; other topics that were also frequently mentioned were home management, consumer education, drug education, and interpersonal relationships. The educators in this sample supported starting sex education in the elementary school and discussing topics about sex at the appropriate age level.

Further public support for the expansion of family life education programs in the schools has come from many varied professional sources. The annual conference of the Canadian Medical Association in 1964 passed a resolution endorsing the teaching of sex education in schools. In 1970, the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women supported the teaching of family life education from kindergarten to adulthood that would include the discussion of the biological, psychological and the sociological aspects of personal relationships. The federal government, through the Family Planning Division of the Department of Health and Welfare, has given its support by providing information and encouragement for family life education since 1972. In a survey of the "Purpose of Education" completed by the Canadian Education Association (1973), a majority of the respondents (that included students, educators and the public at large) supported the viewpoint that the school should be involved in sex education; and that this education should go beyond providing information about human growth and development and deal with controversial issues associated with the topic.

## The Future Challenge

Any predictions about future developments in family life education in Canada must be based on the achievements and the efforts of the past. Thus, it would seem reasonable to assume that family life education will continue to be an integral part of the school curriculum in all parts of Canada.

There appears to be an increasing recognition that the school has a significant role to play in improving the quality of family living in Canada. The introduction of family life education was based on the assumption that the school can contribute to the social development of the individual through the encouragement of the strengthening of family relationships; thus, it will likely continue to function within this frame of reference.

Any evaluation of the future challenges to be faced by the family life educator is hypothetical speculation. It is beyond the scope of this paper to delineate in detail all of the probable challenges that must be dealt with in the future. Thus, only a rather superficial analysis will be indulged in at this time.

There are definite indications that these future challenges will be linked to some of the major social issues that are facing the Canadian society at large. An examination of current educational literature and proposed conference agenda for the meetings of various educational societies suggests that there will be much future discussion about the extent to which the school should be involved in a re-examination of the values that have been traditionally associated with Canadian family life. Some likely issues to be considered are what values and whose values should be discussed in the classroom. Also of future importance is the recognition in family life education programs of the impact

of changing sex role patterns on the family structure and its influence on individual behaviour. In addition, many Canadians are questioning what qualities of living will be needed in making future decisions, as they make the transition from the consuming society of the past to the conserving society of the future. Even the concept of what constitutes a "family" is being reconsidered, as due recognition is being given to the function of many alternative family forms in today's society.

A very recent study of family life education in Canadian schools, that was completed by Déiseach (1977) for the Canadian Education Association, reported that 21 per cent of all of the schools in Canada have a family life education program. On the basis of the present rate of expansion, this author predicted that by 1978 one third of the schools in Canada would have programs in this subject. These are only a few of the considerations that already are making an important impact in preparing for the challenge of the future. The aim of this paper has been to stress the significant role that the family life educator has made in the past and will be called upon to assume in meeting the future challenge. Only time will determine the extent of the contribution that will be made through family life education, in further alleviating the perennial social problems that threaten the welfare of the family in Canada, thereby, promoting stronger families, healthier individuals and a dynamic society.

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(Continued on page 15)



# The Family Farm



Published in the interests of the farmers of the province by the Quebec Department of Agriculture.



## AGRO-FOOD PROCESSING CONFERENCE

### Market Summary Report

Trends in the per capita food consumption and the degree of self-supply in relation to domestic and external markets are two main topics covered in the summary report presented at the Agro-Food Processing Conference which was held in Quebec on April 10-12, 1978.

In Quebec and in the rest of Canada, the growth rate in 1976 for the consumption of meat, fruits, potatoes, and other vegetables rose, whereas that of milk, poultry, and eggs dropped in comparison to the 1970-74 average.

Over the past two years, the per capita consumption of dairy products increased by one per cent annually. However, we must be careful not to interpret as a reversal trend, this minor recovery occasioned in part by the stability of prices in 1976. Another price increase could very well result in a lower per capita consumption or, at least, in a stationary situation in 1978.

In 1975, the per capita physical consumption of poultry dropped significantly with respect to the 1970-74 average in Quebec and in Canada as a whole. However, provided that price fluctuations do not deviate too radically from those of substitute products, we can expect the consumption of poultry to increase according to a long-term trend. Such, at least, was the case in 1977, at which time poultry consumption rose by approximately five per cent.

The opposite is true for potatoes — a long term falling trend, but

definitely on the upswing from 1970-1974 to 1976, because of 1975, since per capita consumption declined in 1976 but remained higher than the 1970-74 average. We should expect a depressing consumption trend for this product to occur again, provided that the cost of other foods does not climb as much as in recent years.

The summary report presented at the regional conference concludes its review of the apparent rate of consumption per product by indicating that certain commodities such as meat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables are experiencing an increase in the per capita consumption rate over an extended period, whereas for milk, eggs, and potatoes, the trend is on the decline. The report continues with a study of the degree of self-supply per product in order to evaluate the orientation of Quebec's production in light of these trends.

The degree of self-supply in relation to Quebec's production and consumption indicates what proportion of the province's demand is filled by its producers. In 1976, it was greater than 100 per cent for dairy products (118.3 per cent), pork (104.7 per cent),

poultry (103.8 per cent), but was lower for beef (21.8 per cent), fruits (11.1 per cent), vegetables (40.8 per cent) and cereals (35.4 per cent).

For products such as beef, fruits and vegetables, which have the best per capita consumption growth prospects, the degree of self-supply is not only very low, but there is also a depressing trend between the average level for the 1970-74 period and 1976. In other words, the domestic offer is only slightly oriented toward the active-demand.

Because of numerous constraints (soil, climate, productivity, production costs, marketing, etc.), the objective of increasing the degree of Quebec's self-supply in the dynamic sectors would not be easily reached. It would require the implementation of a series of policies, means and resources not only at the primary production level but also at the processing and marketing levels.

As outlined at the Agro-Food Processing Conference, such a strategy of intervention would require very close interdepartmental and intradepartmental coordination.

### OF WEEDS AND STRAWBERRIES

More and more farmers are showing a marked preference for growing strawberries. Formerly regarded as a supplementary crop, this fruit has become the main, and at times, even the sole crop for certain producers.

Such popularity apparently is due

to the market value of the berries and to recent pick-your-own harvesting practices.

Strawberry growers are beset not only by problems related to labour and its high cost, but also by weeds. Nonetheless, the recent discovery of the herbicide, SINBAR (terbacil) could very well prove profitable for them.



How are new products such as SINBAR tested? First, the manufacturer tests the product in its laboratories before trying it out in the field. If the results are conclusive, it then enlists the collaboration of government and university researchers.

The Department's Crop Protection Research Service is participating in the program for the product's application to strawberry beds at its L'Assomption and St. Augustin research stations. Trials are being carried out at these two locations because of the possible influence of the soil and climate on the effectiveness of the herbicide. Increasing rates of SINBAR, ranging from half to double the manufacturer's recommended rate are used in determining the most effective and least noxious rate of application. Once this ideal rate is found, a trial lasting a minimum of three years is made in order to verify results. If after such a period the herbicide has not proved harmful and has not resulted in lower yields, it can be approved.

There remains, however, the final step, licensing. For a product to be licensed or registered, the manufacturer submits it for residue testing which makes it possible to measure the amount of the product likely to be found in the crop. If the results of these tests are negative, the product can finally be put on the market. This decision rests upon the Crop Protection Division of Agriculture Canada.

### **Strawberry Field Renewal**

The renewal of a strawberry field, after a two-year maximum production period is another major problem of growers of this fruit. The cost of renewing a field is more than \$1,000 an acre.

Researchers with the Department's Crop Protection Research Service are therefore concentrating more and more on this area. Their aim

is to extend to at least five years the production span of a strawberry field. These experiments also make it possible to establish a program of weed control for the duration of the production period.

For positive results, planting must be done on soil which is free from weeds. Programs relating to production, pest control and precise management must be followed to the letter. For information on this subject, consult the agronome at the local or regional office of the Quebec Department of Agriculture.

It should be noted that field renewal work begins after first year of production and that it is preceded by the application of herbicides (2, 4-D, SINBAR) and the cutting of foliage. Two renewal methods are being tried out, namely reducing each row of plants to a width of 18 inches and dividing it into sections, only one of which is retained. This work must be repeated each year until the strawberry field ceases to yield profitably. Fall treatment is then carried out before mulching.

Many are skeptical about the success of such field renewal trials. However, if we can rely on the findings of the University of Guelph in Ontario, Quebec growers should be able to obtain or at least approximate similar results.

## **AGRO-FOOD PROCESSING CONFERENCE**

### **Summary Report on Markets:**

Since 1971, the Canadian and Quebec food industries have been growing less competitive with the American food industry. This means that it will tend to become increasingly difficult to market Quebec agro-food products in the United States, and that American food products will take over an increasing share of the domestic market. In view of this unfavourable trend, the summary report submitted to the Agro-Food Processing Conference concluded that, unless this situation is remedied, the Quebec agro-food sector will weaken, lose markets, and create unemployment in the coming years.

To a considerable extent, the explanation for this state of affairs lies in changes in wage levels and in labour productivity in recent years. Starting in 1975, average hourly earnings in the Quebec food and beverage group have exceeded those in the corresponding American sector, both in terms of current values and 1961 dollars, and the productivity of the Quebec group shows a considerable decline: in 1975, it was estimated at only 60.5 per cent of that of the American sector, as compared with 73.5 per cent in 1961. It must therefore be concluded that the competitiveness of Quebec food industries has greatly lagged in comparison with that of the United States.

The deterioration of Quebec's competitiveness in relation to that of the United States is not restricted to the major food and beverage group, although these products are among the most affected. However, the trend is not only a Quebec one; the rest of Canada, and especially Ontario, confronted with American industries, is also losing competitiveness.



Some Canadian food industries have been doing a considerable amount of catching up in labour productivity. This applies to fish processing, cookie making, bakeries and soft drinks. On the other hand, others have suffered a decline in productivity in comparison with the American industries: this is the case with livestock slaughtering and meat conditioning, breweries, and the preparation of fruits and vegetables. Moreover, the Canada/United States productivity indexes for the dairy industry and for confectionery are both very unfavourable to Canada.

The overall picture which emerges does not indicate that the present situation will soon improve. Judging by the trends, the outlook for Quebec food industries both on external and internal markets is not bright. In particular meat products and dairy products, our main food exports, will have increasing difficulty in finding an outlet at competitive prices on American markets.

## DESTROY COUCH GRASS

Quebec — Couch-grass, which is found in grain crops, row crops, pastures and hayfields, is probably the most widespread weed in Quebec. To control it, farmers used to let their land lay fallow or semi-fallow. However, this proved expensive and required additional work during the summer — already a very busy season.

### Chemical Control

Today, chemical means, i.e., herbicides, can be used effectively to eliminate couch-grass. DALAPON at 15 pounds/a, AMITROLE-T at 2 USA gallons/a, TCA at 45 pounds/a, ATRAZINE

80W at 5 pounds/a and ROUNDUP at 85 ounces/a are among the principal products available.

#### a) DALAPON and AMITROLE-T

These two products are applied directly on couch-grass when it is six inches high at the beginning of August, followed by shallow ploughing 15 days later when the couch grass has withered and then by harrowing repeated every 15 days.

#### b) TCA

If this product is to be used, start by shallow ploughing followed by a good harrowing in order to expose the rhizomes on the surface of the soil.

In this way, it will be easy to bring the TCA and the rhizomes into contact to destroy the couch-grass. This treatment may be carried out at the beginning of September and must be followed by harrowing.

#### c) ATRAZINE

For those who follow corn by corn, Atrazine will be the greatest help in controlling couch-grass. There are three ways of applying it, i.e., by a pre-planting incorporated treatment, a pre-emergence or a post-emergence treatment, with or without oil.

Atrazine will leave residues in the soil and oblige its users to grow corn on the same soil during two consecutive years.

#### d) ROUNDUP

This last herbicide, which recently made its appearance on the market among products for the destruction of couch-grass, has definite advantages notwithstanding its high cost.

It is applied on couch-grass at the four or eight leaf-stage before spring or fall ploughing and when the growth is at its most vigorous. This product leaves no residues in the soil but it has, unfortunately, not yet been approved for all crops.

According to an experiment carried out last summer by Maurice Ferron, agronome with the Crop Protection Research Service of the Quebec Department of Agriculture, it would be advisable to wait at least 15 days before ploughing soil which has been treated. Ploughings 4, 6, 10, and 15 days after treatment were followed by improved alfalfa yield and, respectively, by 92.8 per cent, 97.6 per cent, 98.1 per cent and 99.7 per cent reduction in the amount of couch-grass.

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(This article is reprinted from the *Canadian Home Economics Journal*.)



## Looking Back

Members of the **Belvidere** branch recently received a delightful letter and snapshot from Mr. Kenneth R. Hall, whose wife is a member of the Shipton WI. In his letter, Mr. Hall said that after graduating from Macdonald in 1923, he spent four happy years at the home of Mrs. Walter Ellis as a boarder while teaching at the Christie School. The accompanying photo of the Belvidere WI was taken at Mrs. Ellis's home in September, 1924. Mr. Hall was able to identify most of those "snapped" and suggested that present members hold a contest to see how many they could name. Mrs. Mickey Povey arranged the contest and she tells us that Irene Paige and Dorothy Montgomery were the winners, each with a count of five. The ladies in the photo are from left to right, Mrs. Walter Ellis, Mrs. Will Cillis, Mrs. Jim Cillis, Mrs. R. Cillis, a Scottish girl, Mrs. McGee (formerly Mrs. Chas. Wheeler), Mrs. Rose Cillis Weame, Mrs. Darker, Mrs. James Ellis, Mrs. Andrew Ellis, Mrs. Matthews. In front is young Miss Marjory Cillis with the two children of the Scottish girl, Bob and Peggy Cillis.



Now the years are great in number,  
And through them all, dear Alice,  
You have been a good and  
faithful member.

President, Secretary, Convener,  
too,  
You filled every office, none  
were new,  
You came to each meeting through  
snow and rain  
Perfect attendance was your aim.

You travelled by buggy, also by  
sleigh —  
It made no difference, December  
or May,  
Fulfilling your duties, living up  
to the creed  
To do and help others, whatever  
the need.

Then after many years of devotion  
Without a whine or a whim  
Never even expecting thanks  
We presented to you, a Life  
Membership Pin.

Once again it is our pleasure  
To present a gift to you.  
Our words of thanks and gratitude  
To you we now renew.

Please accept from the Women's  
Institute

This Abbie Pritchard Throw.  
For faithful service and devotion  
Which started many years ago.

## The Seal Hunt

We recently received a letter and article from Mrs. Frances Ennis, Co-ordinating Secretary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes. We regret that space does not permit our using the article which was written because, as Mrs. Ennis said "we feel that our names as Newfoundlanders have been blackened in front of the world by people who have not presented the true facts of the Seal Hunt." The article points out the positive aspects of this annual hunt, which has been the subject of much controversy in recent years. Some of the data used in the article are from the free booklet, "The Seal Hunt" which was published by the Federal Department of Fisheries and the Environment. The article is in our Provincial Office, should any branch be interested in reading it in detail.

## Abbie Pritchard Throws

At the request of the branch and the discretion of the Provincial Executive, throws are given to bona fide members who, for one reason or another, have become incapacitated.

Mrs. Alice Coates, **Canterbury** WI, was recently presented with an Abbie Pritchard Throw. Mrs. Helen Groom made the presentation and also composed the following poem:

## A Tribute to Alice

Since you joined the Women's  
Institute



# **Presentations**

Top right: Mrs. Mona Taylor receives a Life Membership pin from Shipton branch. Richmond County President Mrs. Lorne Eastman made the presentation to Mrs. Taylor and to (below right) Mrs. Evelyn Saffin.

Below left: Stanbridge East's Mrs. Beryl Tremblay was presented with a Life Membership pin by Mrs. Clifford Richard, Vice-President. Lower right: Mrs. Iris Miller of the Murdochville WI receiving a 25-year pin from Mrs. Maude Coffin, and Mrs. Grace Suddard, County President.





## ROLLS — Recipe for a beginner

1. Put 5 teaspoons of lard in large pan with cover. Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup white sugar, bit of salt, 2 cups boiling water — pour over and leave.
2. In small bowl pour  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water,  $105^{\circ}$  —  $115^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Add  $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons sugar; stir. Add two packages of yeast, DO NOT STIR. Leave for 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile measure 7 cups of all-purpose flour.
4. Add 3 eggs to pan and beat with electric beater. Stir yeast and add to pan. Gradually add 7 cups flour. Start adding using electric beater, then use hands. Add until dough is slightly sticky. Put dough in ball in middle of pan and cover. Put in refrigerator for approximately 24 hours.
5. Next day: roll flour on board and shape dough into rolls. Place, touching, on greased cookie sheets. Cover with towel and keep from drafts for about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours (not less than 2 nor more than 3 hours).
6. After rising, brush with mixture of margarine and sugar (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup margarine and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar).

7. Bake in oven at  $350^{\circ}$  for 30 minutes.

Mrs. Ruby Knights, QWI Home Economics Convener.

### Roast Pork with Bananas in Orange Sauce

$3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 pounds loin of pork  
2 tablespoons finely chopped crystallized ginger  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup soy sauce

Heat oven to  $325^{\circ}$ . Make several small slits in roast with paring knife. Insert in slits 1 tablespoon

ginger. Combine remaining ginger with soy sauce.

Line shallow roasting pan with foil. Arrange pork fat side up on rack in roasting pan.

Brush pork with soy sauce and ginger. Bake in slow oven until cooked. Baste occasionally with sauce mixture.

To serve garnish with bananas baked in orange sauce.

### Sauce

8 bananas, green tipped  
2 oranges, peeled and sectioned  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup sugar  
2 tablespoons orange juice  
2 tablespoons lemon juice  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup melted butter

Heat over to  $450^{\circ}$ . Grease a shallow baking dish. Arrange peeled bananas and orange sections in dish. Sprinkle with sugar. Combine remaining ingredients and pour over fruit.

Bake in a hot oven 12-15 minutes or until tender and slightly browned.

Serve hot with Roast Pork.

### Swiss Bliss

2 pounds steak — 1" thick  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoon butter  
1 envelope onion soup mix  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pound mushrooms  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  green pepper sliced  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped celery  
1 16-ounce tin canned tomatoes, drained and chopped. Reserve juice.  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
freshly ground pepper  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup juice from canned tomatoes  
1 tablespoon steak sauce  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
25 inches aluminum foil

Spread centre of foil with butter. Set foil in roaster. Cut steak into serving portions, arrange on foil,

slightly overlapping each portion. Sprinkle with onion soup mix, mushrooms, green pepper, celery, tomatoes and seasonings.

Mix juice, steak sauce, cornstarch. Pour over meat and vegetables. Bring foil up and double fold edge to seal tightly. Bake two hours in oven  $365^{\circ}$ - $375^{\circ}$ . Roll back foil and sprinkle with parsley.

### Dear WI Members,

Wasn't it Mark Twain who, in reference to March and spring said, "I can count over 100 kinds of weather in 24 hours"? However, we may be experiencing one of those tender days in May when this is in print. So many delightful pictures flash across our minds when we think of this time of the year. Some see busy tractors hurrying to a field at the rear of the farm; others glimpse popular ice-cream stands, and still others see teenagers looking for a safe place to play ball. I can see a slim-waisted bright-eyed girl tripping down a green slope in a meadow with some apple blossoms in her hands. Nearby there may be some frisky lambs, or a mare jealously guarding a new born foal. We really are on summer's doorstep!

Interesting letters were received from 12 counties. All branches reported annual reports being read and slates of officers for the coming year presented. In some cases roll calls were answered by payment of dues. The members of **Aubrey Riverfield**, each told an Irish joke before paying their fees.

At the **Waterloo-Warden** meeting each member gave 17 cents in honour of Saint Patrick's Day, this to go to the Ways and Means. The Education Convener of their branch gave out copies from Quebec regarding the Green Paper. Education Conveners in other branches report the same item. The Agriculture Convener of **Granby Hill** said, "cement dust fed to farm animals resulted in an



increase in weight and a higher grade of beef? This seems difficult to understand. The Welfare and Health Convener tells us some branches of the V.O.N. are being absorbed in other health services, and the Education Convener of the same branch, in a talk on eggs, said there is no difference in the food value found in white or brown eggs.

The following is news from **Missisquoi County: Cowansville** reports a new Publicity Convener in the person of Mrs. Parsons, a long-time WI member in the Sherbrooke area as well as in Cowansville since moving here a few years ago. Mrs. Gibson read a letter from the pen pal in Dorset, England, which told of their large membership — 124 members. The members of **Fordyce** decided to give \$50 to CanSave instead of handbags; also a roll call for the coming year was to bring in one knitted article and \$1 to be sent to CanSave. This is surely a generous idea. Mrs. Hattie Bowling, Citizenship Convener, showed slides on her recent trip to Switzerland as well as some of the past events of WI. At **Dunham** Mrs. Reda Lewis, County President, was a guest and took the chair for the election of officers. **Lennoxville** made 18 packages of cancer dressings and donated \$25 to the Scholarship and Bursary Fund at Alexander Galt Regional High. The Agricultural Convener read an article asking for more support for private research in agricultural technology and a plea for more university students in this field. A very successful drawing, which netted \$100.75 was reported by Mrs. Powell from the **Milby** group. Mrs. Margaret Smart won the first draw—a beautiful hand-made quilt. The second went to Mrs. McKee who won a fruit cake which had been made and donated by Mrs. D. Coates and the third, a table centrepiece, made and donated by Mrs. E. Naylor, went to Mrs. N. Bresette. The Citizenship Convener reported that wool had been received and knitting would be

done for CanSave. From **Brompton Road** we learn that articles valued between 25 and 50 cents were auctioned to raise money for prizes for the card party held in favour of the Cancer Fund — the amount realized for this cause was \$120.

**Sherbrooke County** WI is getting together a Life Membership Book listing those members who, by their outstanding and dedicated service to their WI group, earned the honour of receiving life membership pins. **Ascot** branch has honoured 19 members over the years. Where possible pictures are included. This work has been done by County and Branch Publicity Conveners.

At the **Clarendon** meeting, Mrs. Connolly gave a very amusing reading entitled: Resolved that the Irish have contributed more to the nationality of Canada than the Scottish." This may be debatable! A total of 113 knitted articles were made ready for CanSave. A new member Mrs. Clarence Wilson was welcomed. After discussion, it was decided to serve refreshments at the Steam Show to be held the 24, 25 and 26 of this coming August. I, for one, would like to hear more about this annual event.

The roll call at **Dewittville** was: Show your talent. There was an excellent display of crocheting, macramé, wall hangings, needlepoint, knitted dolls, also an Easter flower arrangement. The Citizenship Convener reported that a WI group in Panoka, Alberta, wished to exchange ideas of lifestyles in each other's districts. A highlight from the **Hemmingford** meeting is that members were informed that looms which belong to the WI have been set up in the Municipal Building and courses are being held under the continuing education program. Members of this branch were sorry to learn that one of their long-time members, Mrs. Harold Palmer is moving to Kitchener, Ontario, to be near to her family. **Howick's** annual

meeting was preceded by a delicious potluck luncheon enjoyed by 35 members. All enjoyed a piece of cake made and decorated by Marna Brown in honour of Mrs. Margaret Dunn who celebrated her 89th birthday that day. The Howick Scrapbook has been sent to Howick's twin group in Cayley, Alberta. During the noon break members had seen a display of articles from the Holy Land. Before the meeting ended Ethel Grant showed the little oil lamp and a vial which was used to collect the tears of mourners — the more tears the higher regard. These two objects were the gift of an archeologist and date back 2,000 years.

This item is from **Huntingdon**: Miss Anna Rutherford will succeed Mrs. A. Champion as President. The latter will be the new President for Chateauguay-Huntingdon County. The dog situation in town was discussed and members were urged as individuals to report any infraction of the law concerning animals to the Council. **Ormstown** ladies held their March meeting at Walshaven when 27 members and one visitor sat down to a luncheon catered by Grant's Bakery, Huntingdon. A letter of thanks for knitted articles from CanSave was read and plans were made to make and fill handbags.

**Brookbury** members modelled hats made from kitchen utensils with eight members making hats while four paid fines of 25 cents.

The Convener of Home Economics at **East Angus** read an article about a 79-year old woman of Pointe Claire who still made her own soap and gave the recipe. Mrs. Gordon French, **East Clifton**, reported that in December she had received a request from Model Institute, Glencoe, Ontario, for a program for their February meeting. With the help of Mrs. Emma Watt, Sawyerville, a paper on "Roses" was sent. Mrs. Watt described "Programs for Golden Agers" as



well and Mrs. French sent reports of meetings, programs, etc., and suggested an International Buffet. She received a table cloth with the provincial crests as a thank you; also a copy of their Home and Country Magazine. An article from this magazine was read at the meeting. **Sawyerville** planned a card party and food sale to raise money for handibags and for other expenses.

Mrs. Husk, **Gore** branch, Richmond County read the up-dated history of this group. The members of **Spooner Pond** are working on a hooked rug which will be entered in the Interbranch Competition at Richmond Fair. The same branch held a book sale, proceeds went to buy a new book for the Richmond Regional. **Shipton** held a drawing on a poncho made by a life member; when \$62.25 was realized, while **Cleveland** raised money for Pennies for Friendship from a sale of blankets and books which had been donated to the Branch.

Mrs. Francis Stephenson, **Wright**, writes: "Owing to sickness and busy times in our small group living here at Wright (half of our members live in Ottawa), we could not have a meeting in January or until late February so decided to have a meeting on the weekend so our city members could join us; also we had our annual after our hostess served supper. This proved a good day for everyone." This branch also reports that there was a demonstration of physical fitness exercises suitable for their group age. Also a successful family get-together had been held — this is a wish of our F.W.I.C.

This year **Aylmer** will be corresponding with the WI at Huston, B.C. which has a population of 3,000 and is situated on the Yellowhead Route 16 at Bulkley River. Their industries are lumbering, hunting and fishing. Aylmer members are working on exhibits for J. & P. Coats and QWI competitions for 1978.

From Bonaventure County, Mrs. Gertie Dow sends news from five

branches: **Black Cape** remembered their foster child with gifts and her letters were read to the group. The Convener of Education explained the Green Paper relating to Bill 101. The Sunshine Committee of **Grand Cascapedia** took a large box of magazines to the Mary's Boarding House in St. Jules. At **Marcil** plans were made to have a dinner at a restaurant to celebrate the branch's 30th Anniversary. Their first meeting was held on February 5, 1948, with Mrs. Cameron Dow, O.B.E. acting as Chairman. Also soup was served to the pupils in Hopetown Elementary School. Two new members joined this branch. At **New Richmond West** 10 members answered the roll call by naming an animal in French that started with the first letter of their first name, and \$10 was donated to CanSave. **Matapedia** had 11 members at their meeting and to answer the roll call named a favourite TV or radio program.

At **Jerusalem Bethany's** annual meeting, one new member joined. Pieces of material were collected and the Citizenship Convener will forward them to CanSave. At **Pioneer** annual meeting it was decided to give a donation towards the Handicraft Prize List of the WI, also to the Carillon Museum. A special prize will be given at the Lachute Fair on a stuffed toy not smaller than 12 inches high. Also the members were invited to a Saint Patrick's party on March 17 at the home of Mrs. Rita Beaudry. **Brownsburg** is going to affiliate with a sister WI in Glenbairn, Saskatchewan, in order to have a better understanding of each other's way of working. The President of **Frontier** reported on the candy they had made on St. Valentine's Day, advising members that there was enough candy to be passed out at the Manoir, the Lachute Residence, The Capar Institute, and to various other senior citizens living in the area. Two new members joined this branch and the president read a letter received from CanSave thanking them for handibags and mittens which had been sent.

**Dalesville-Louisa** ladies made a donation towards the prize money at the Spring Fair, and Pennies for Friendship were collected by the **Upper Lachute East End WI**. **Grenville** is happy to welcome a new member. Their count is 25 — a nice number for their young club. It was agreed to fill Handibags and plans were made to charter a bus for the Annual Provincial Convention at Macdonald College.

I will mention a few roll calls: **Wright**: read or mention an article of interest from the last issue of the Macdonald Journal. **Clarendon**: give a cure for the "Blues" and from **East Angus**: six members answered the roll call which was: My favourite "pick-me-up". **Ascot**: each member brought to the meeting a stamped, get-well card, to be used as needed. **Lennoxville**: bring oldest piece of jewellery — 20 pieces in all were brought in, many over 100-years old.

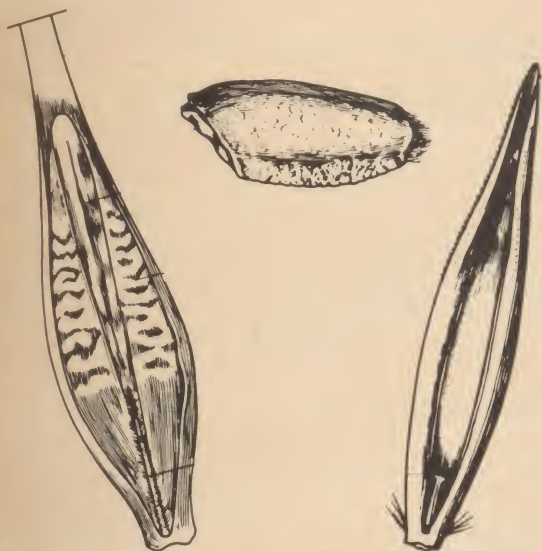
As I was ready to mail this letter, more arrived from **Pontiac** County. **Wyman** was organized on March 3, 1913 so a 65th anniversary trip is planned for this coming June. Plans were completed in connection with the festival to be held May 8, 9 and 10 in Shawville United Church basement hall, and a donation was given to Bristol Fire Hall. At **Stark's Corners** many helpful hints for making house cleaning easier were given when the members answered the roll call. At **Bristol** it was decided to fill handibags for CanSave and members were asked to prepare articles for the Pontiac Culture Festival to be held in May.

The following motto is from **Wyman**: May your life be like a Maple Leaf, more beautiful as it fades. This from **Wright**: A man may be happy without a fortune, but he can't be happy without a friend. Henry Ward Beecher, American writer, debater and preacher of the 19th century wrote: What the heart has once had and owned, it shall never lose.

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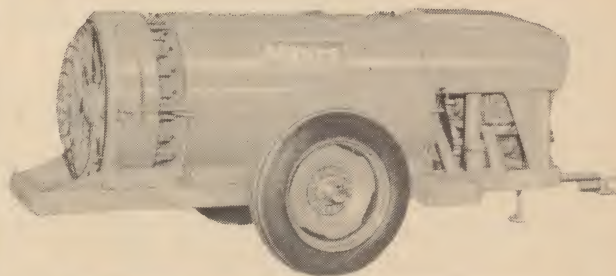
### Appointment

Mr. Robert L. Gamelin, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. E.S. Farrelly as President and Director of Ralston Purina of Canada Ltd. Mr. Farrelly started with Ralston Purina in 1951. In 1961, he joined the International Division where he held numerous management positions. In 1968, Mr. Farrelly was named Managing Director of Purina Italia, Milan, Italy. From 1972 until his Canadian appointment, he was Managing Director of Duquesne-Purina, France. The new Ralston Purina President headquarters in Longueuil, Quebec.



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